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Atty. Docket No. MP0351
Serial No: 10/776,476

Remarks

Applicants and their representatives wish to thank Examiner Jackson for allowing claims 2-5, 9-12, 19-22, 24, 26, 27, 41 and 45, and indicating the allowability of claims 70-72 and 80. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 80. Claims 70 and 71 have been rewritten in independent form. Device claim 18 and method claim 65 (which in the Amendment filed July 28, 2006 contain limitations substantially similar to claim 1) have also been amended to include the allowable limitation of claim 80. The rest of the claims have been amended largely for consistency with the amended independent claims, but claims 67-68 were amended to correct an inadvertent error in dependency (claim 65 does not recite a bias, but claim 66 does). Claims 6-8, 13-17, 32-40, 42-44, 46-51, 77 and 79 depend on claim 1. Claims 23, 25, 29-31, 52-64 and 78 depend on claim 18. Claims 66-69 and 73-76 depend on claim 65. Therefore, Claims 1-79 are in condition for allowance.

The Rejection of Claims 1, 6-8, 13-18, 23, 25, 28-36, 65, 73-75, 77 and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, the rejection of claims 1, 6-8, 13-18, 23, 25, 28-36, 65, 73-75, 77 and 78 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandt in view to Klaren et al. and Yamaguchi has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

Applicants' undersigned representative notes that Claim 28 as presented in the Amendment filed July 28, 2006, depends from allowed claim 19. Therefore, claim 28 should also be considered allowed.

The Rejection of Claims 37-40, 42, 47-64, 66-69, and 76 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, the rejection of claims 37-40, 42, 47-64, 66-69, and 76 under 35 U.S.C.



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§ 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandt and Klaren et al. and Yamaguchi in view of Khorram has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

The Rejection of Claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, the rejection of claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandt, Klaren et al., and Khorram in view of Endou et al. has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

The Rejection of Claims 44 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, the rejection of claims 44 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandt, Klaren et al., and Khorram in view of Davis has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

The Rejection of Claim 79 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application and without conceding the issue of patentability, the rejection of claim 79 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brandt, Klaren et al. and Yamaguchi, in view of Masahiro has been obviated by appropriate amendment.

Conclusions

Applicants and their representatives again wish to thank Examiner Jackson for allowing claims 2-5, 9-12, 19-22, 24, 26, 27, 41, and 45 and indicating the allowability of claims 70-72 and 80 over the cited prior art.



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In view of the above amendments and remarks, all bases for rejection are overcome, and the application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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